

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed August 13, 2003 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-18 are pending and submitted for reconsideration. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2347124 (Mizuno), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,874 (Scheel).

Claims 1, 3, 6, 17 and 18

The rejection should be withdrawn because the references when taken alone, or in combination, fail to disclose the claimed invention. In particular, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests "wherein the entire surface of each of the plurality of balls is applied with a lubrication coating" as required in Claim 1, as well as Claim 17. Similarly, neither references discloses, teaches, or suggests "the entire surface of the straight portion pipe is coated with lubricant" as called for in Claims 3, 6 and 18.

The Examiner contends that Scheel teaches that "the surface of said balls and an interior surface of the pipe are applied with lubrication coating." However, Scheel does not disclose that the entire surface of either the balls or the interior of the pipe is coated by a lubricant. Scheel only discloses lubrication by means of a capsule and a capsule cannot lubricate the entire surface of the balls or the interior of the pipe. Additionally, Scheel discloses that the lubrication occurs only when the capsules are impacted by the drive piston, as opposed to directly lubricate the balls and interior of the pipe. As none of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 7 and 9-16

Claim 5 depends from Claim 3 and Claims 7, 9-16 depend from Claim 6 and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

11/13/03

By:



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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OF IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.